

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 EUR-08 NEA-07 ISO-00 A-01 SS-07
NSC-06 /037 W

-----042854 152012Z /75R

R 151540Z AUG 77
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8319
INFO AMEMBASSY ADIS ABABA
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AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AXEMBASSY NAIROBI 439
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

S E C R E T CAIRO 13537

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, SO, US, CD, EG
SUBJ: US MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO SOMALIA AND CHAD

REF (A) ALEXANDRIA 859 (NOTAL), (B) CAIRO 13536,

SUMMARY: IN AUG 14 DISCUSSIONS WITH CONG SIKES AND AMB, SADAT URGED USG RECONSIDER ITS HOLD ON MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO SOMALIA. SAID THIS COULD "JEOPARDIZE EVERYTHING". CLAIMED SIAD DEFYING USSR AND WEST "SHOULD HELP HIM". TIME FACTOR, SAID SADAT, IS VITAL. END UMMARY

1. DURING CODEL SIKES' CALL ON SADAT, THE QUESTION OF POSSIBLE US MIL ASSISTANCE TO CHAD AND SOMALIA WAS DISCUSSED AT LENGTH.

2. SADAT EMPHASIZED, REPEATEDLY, CRUCIAL IMPORTANCE OF
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TIME FACTOR. SAID SITUATION ON SOMALIA PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT. HE NOTED SOMALIA HAS ASKED EGYPT SUPPLY MIG 21 PILOTS AND THIS IS BEING CONSIDERED. HE NOTED EGYPT HAS SENT "HUNDRED" OF TON OF WAR MATERIEL TO SOMALIA NAD URGED USG TO ADD ITS SUPPORT.

3. AMB POINTED OUT SITUATION HASBECOME COMPLICATED AS

RESULT ESCALATED FIGHTING IN OGADEN. IN CASE OF CHAD, USG HAD RECEIVED ITS VP AT SADAT'S REQUEST. VP HAD PRESENTED US WITH LIST OF CHADIAN MILITARY REQUIREMENTS; SOME OF WHICH CAN BE FILLED, SOME CAN NOT. RECOMMENDATION GOING FORWARD TO THE PRES AND WILL BE PRESENTED TO CONGRESS. US LAW PROVIDES THAT, FOLLOWING THIS, THERE BY 50 DAY WAITING PERIOD. AMB ASSURED SADAT THAT SUPPORT FOR CHAD, INCLUDING MILITARY ITMES, GOING FORWARD. SADAT EXPRESSED FRUSTRATION OVER THE DELAY; CODEL POINTED OUT THIS IS TH LAW.

4. AS FOR SOMALIA, AMB TOLD SADAT THAT HE HAD GIVEN FONIMIN FAHMY LIST OF AMRS SOMALIS REQUESTED (REF A). AS SADAT KNEW, USG NEEDED IN PRICNIPLE TO BE HELPFUL. HOWEVER, HOLD HAS NOW BEEN PLACED ON MILITARY SUPPORT FOR SOMALIA AS RESULT ESCALATED FIGHTING. PRES CARTER DOES NOT WANT AMERICAN ARMS USED I OGADEN. DECISION PROVIDE MILITARY ASSISTANCE FOR LEGITIMATE DEFENSE NEEDS HAS NOT BEEN REVERSED, BUT USG CAN NOT MOVE FORWARD UNTIL OGADEN SITUATION RESOLVED. ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, HOWEVER, WILL BE PROVIDED.

5. SADAT DECLARED THAT USG, BY HOLDING UP ON ARMS, "IS JEOPARDIZING EVERYTHING." HE NOTED "EGPTIANS STORES ARE EMPTY" AND GOE CAN PROVIDE SOMALIA "LITTLE ADDITIONAL SUPPORT." SADAT SAID THAT ONLY TWO OR THREE TOWNS REMAIN UNDER ETHIPIAN CONTROL IN OGADEN AND, THUS, CONFLICT SHOULD BE OVER SOON, BEFORE AMERICAN ARMS ARRIVE. SADAT TIED HIS SUPPORT FOR SOMALIA
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TO HIS BACKING OF SUDAN, WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS "EGYPT'S SECURITY HE ADMITTED THAT EGYPTIANS ARMS HAVE BEEN USED TO SEIZE SOME OF LAND IN OGADEN BUT CLEARLY WAS NOT TROUBLED BY THIS.

6. AMB NOTED USG RECENTLY HAS RECEIVED INCREASING EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN FROM KENYA. KENYAN OFFICIALS ARE AFRAD THAT, AFTER SAID FINISHES OPERATIONS IN OGADEN, HE WILL TURN HIS ATTENTIONS TO KENYA. AMB WONDERED WHETHER SADAT COULD PERHAPS REASSURE KEYNA OR WHETHER HE COULD GET SOMALIA TO DO THIS ISTELF?

7. SADAT AGREED EGYPT COULD PRESSURE SIAD TO DO THIS. ADD- ITIONALLY, SADAT FELT KENYAN FEARS EXAGGERATED SINCE SOMALIA WILL FACE ABSORPTION PROBLEM IN OGADEN. SOMALIA IS VERY POOR COUNTRY AND "WILL NEED TME TO DIGUEST WHAT HAS BEEN SEIZED."

8. ABOVE HAS NOT BEEN CLEARED WITH CONG SIKES. HE WILL WISH TO REVIEW ON RETURN WASHINGTON.
EILTS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 15-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977CAIRO13537
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770294-0198
Format: TEL
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770863/aaaacapd.tel
Line Count: 115
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 5d20f25a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION H
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 ALEXANDRIA 859, 77 CAIRO 13536
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1605363
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO SOMALIA AND CHAD
TAGS: MASS, SO, US, CD, EG
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5d20f25a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009